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FM AMEMBASSY PRISTINA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9652
INFO RUEH2L/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEOBZB/12SWS THULE AB GL PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1330
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY
RHMFIS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1868
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHFMIS/AFSOUTH NAPLES IT PRIORITY
RHFMIS/CDR TF FALCON PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEPGEA/CDR650THMIGP SHAPE BE PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUZEJAA/USNIC PRISTINA SR PRIORITY

Wednesday, 27 January 2010, 15:44
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 PRISTINA 000044

SIPDIS
DEPT FOR EUR (SCE, ACE, RPM)

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TAGS PGOV, PINR, PREL, MARR, KV

SUBJECT: KOSOVO: SUCCESS IN THE NORTH KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL

KFOR DRAWDOWN

REF: A. 09 PRISTINA 509 B. 09 USNATO 409 C. BELGRADE 0003

Classified By: AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER DELL FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)
1. (C) SUMMARY: While skirmishes and security incidents may be rare from day to day, an impending frozen conflict in Northern Kosovo remains a threat to SASE

2. (C) We have argued (ref A) that to achieve the conditions-based drawdown of KFOR troops agreed by the North Atlantic Council (ref B), it is NORTHERN STRATEGY AN OPPORTUNITY

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3. (C) For much of the past ten years, pursuit of our strategic goal of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic Kosovo has taken a back seat in the

4. (C) That this international and local alliance for action in Northern Kosovo comes while KFOR remains at a robust presence of roughly 10,000

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE NORTH ARE PRACTICAL SASE BENCHMARKS

5. (SBU) While a robust KFOR is important to the success of the Northern Strategy, the implementation of the strategy is an opportunity for KFOR

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6. (SBU) As the NAC debates the move to "Gate 2" (5,000 troops) and beyond, we would argue that the time is ripe to move from a negative operation to a successful establishment of the decentralized municipality of North Mitrovica; re-establishment of collection of customs revenue at Gates 1 and 31, as part of a single, Kosovo-wide customs regime; the staffing of the Mitrovica District Court with ethnic Serb and Albanian judges recognized by the Kosovo justice system; enhanced EULEX police presence in Northern Kosovo, and the full integration of Kosovo Serb members of the Kosovo Police (KP) in Kosovo Police; the replacement of illegal parallel municipal authorities in Northern Kosovo with, legal, legitimately constituted Kosovo bodies; the arrest and prosecution of major organized crime figures; and, the normalization of electric power distribution and billing throughout Northern Kosovo by KEK, according to UNMIK law and regulation.

STATUS NEUTRAL, NOT VALUE NEUTRAL

7. (C) Some may protest that the establishment of such benchmarks represents a break with KFOR's status neutral stance. This is patently untrue

COMMENT

8. (C) For ten years, stability in Northern Kosovo has been defined as merely the lack of conflict. Today's KFOR, at "Gate 1" levels of 10,000

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full extent of its recognized borders, and KFOR's surest roadmap to a successful reduction in troop strength to "Gate 2" and beyond. DELL